



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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TOBACCO PRODUCTION UP AND WHEAT PRODUCTION DOWN FROM LAST YEAR

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Based on July 1 conditions, **SOUTH CAROLINA'S** 2006 production of tobacco is expected to be up and wheat is expected to be down from 2005, according to the USDA NASS, South Carolina Field Office.

This year's **WHEAT** production is estimated at 6.38 million bushels - down 26 percent from last year and down 19 percent from 2004. The acreage harvested for grain, at 133,000, is 32,000 acres below a year ago. This year's expected average yield of 48 bushels per acre is down 4 bushels from 2005 and up 4 bushels from 2004.

The first **TOBACCO** forecast of the season places 2006 production at 49.50 million pounds - up 18 percent from last year. Harvested acres, at 22,000, are up 2,000 acres from last year. The July 1 yield forecast at 2,250 pounds per acre is up 150 pounds from a year ago, but down 100 pounds from 2004.

UNITED STATES 2006 PRODUCTION AND PERCENT OF PREVIOUS YEAR

Wheat, Winter	1.28	Bil. Bu.	85 %
Oats	110.3	Mil. Bu.	96 %
Tobacco, Flue Cured	473.9	Mil. Lbs.	124 %